Based Upon: PCT/EP2004/000015

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A tool guiding device with a base frame (1) and guide rails (2)[[,]] which are parallel ~~in relation~~ relative to each other[[,]] arranged ~~thereon, on which~~ on the base frame (1) and at least one carriage (3, 4) having ~~provided with~~ a processing tool (13, 14) [[is]] displaceably linearly guided via a carriage connector (10, 11) by ~~means of~~ a drive mechanism, the tool guiding device comprising:

~~characterized in that~~

the carriage (3, 4) [[is]] coupled to the carriage connectors (10, 11) via at least one compensating device (9) having at least one angle compensation element (9.4) and at least one lateral compensation element (9.1, 9.5. 9.6).

2. (Currently Amended) The device in accordance with claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the angle compensation element (9.4) is ~~embodied as~~ one of a ball element [[or]] and a ball section element~~, which is~~ rigidly connected with the carriage connector (10, 11) and [[is]] seated[[,]] on [[its]] a side facing away from the carriage connector (10, 11)[[,]] in an articulated manner in a ball socket (9.11) of an intermediate piece (9.1) and[[,]] one of ~~a) that~~ the intermediate

piece (9.1) [[has]] having a further ball socket (9.12) on [[its]] a side facing away from the ball socket (9.11)[[,]] in which one of a further ball element [[or]] and a further ball section element (9.5)~~, which is~~ connected with the carriage (3, 4)[[,]] is seated in an articulated manner, [[or]] and ~~b) that~~ on [[its]] the side facing away from the ball socket (9.11)[[,]] the intermediate piece (9.1) is seated by ~~means of~~ one of a roller, a ball [[or]] and a sliding bearing with a plurality of one of rolling, ball [[or]] and sliding bodies laterally positioned transversely to [[the]] a displacement direction of the carriage (3.4) ~~in the latter~~.

3. (Currently Amended) The device in accordance with claim [[1 or]] 2, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the at least one carriage (3, 4) is maintained and guided on facing tracks (2.3, 2.3') on facing sides of the guide rails (2) by one of revolving ~~roller or~~ rollers and ball units.

4. (Currently Amended) The device in accordance with claim 3, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ on [[the]] respectively oppositely located sides of the guide rails (2) respective pairs of the guide tracks (2.31. 2.32) are arranged[[,]] ~~which~~ and in cross section are oriented one of angled [[or]] and parallel with each other, on each of which one of a revolving roller [[or]] and a balls unit rolls off.

5. (Currently Amended) The device in accordance with ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that in its~~ claim 4, wherein at two end areas located in [[the]] a guiding direction the carriage (3, 4) has ~~is provided with~~ strippers (2.2)[[,]] at least in the area of the guide tracks (2.31, 2.32), and [[for]] sealing [[the]] a space between the guide rails (2) and the carriages (3, 4) are sealing elements ~~are provided~~ on the ~~latter~~ carriages (3, 4).

6. (Currently Amended) The device in accordance with ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 5, wherein rail guides (1.1) for fastening the guide rails (2) ~~have been~~ are cut into the base frame (1).

7. (Currently Amended) The device in accordance with ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 6, wherein the guide rails (2) are connected with the base frame (1) from [[the]] a direction of the side of the base frame (1).

8. (Currently Amended) The device in accordance with ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 7, wherein the base frame (1) has a table (1.3) and ~~that~~ two of the guide rails (2) are attached in a vertical orientation to

a vertical section extending from below to above the table (1.3) ~~to above it~~, and a gate (1.2) is formed above the table top in [[the]] a vertical section between the guide rails (2), so that access paths (12) to a treatment location of the tool are provided from four horizontal directions.

9. (Currently Amended) The device in accordance with claim 8, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ an upper carriage (3) is arranged above the table top, and a lower carriage (4) is arranged below the table top.

10. (Currently Amended) The device in accordance with ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 9, wherein a passage (9.3) for an ejector (17) is formed in the at least one angle compensation element (9.4) and at least one lateral compensation element (9.1, 9.5).

11. (Currently Amended) The device in accordance with ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 10, wherein a measuring pickup of a measuring system (5, 6) is arranged between two guide rails (2) in the area of the respective carriage (3, 4) for adjusting a carriage position.

12. (New) The device in accordance with claim 1, wherein the at least one carriage (3, 4) is maintained and guided on facing tracks (2.3, 2.3') on facing sides of the guide rails (2) by one of revolving rollers and ball units.

13. (New) The device in accordance with claim 12, wherein on respectively oppositely located sides of the guide rails (2) respective pairs of the guide tracks (2.31. 2.32) are arranged and in cross section are oriented one of angled and parallel with each other, on each of which one of a revolving roller and a balls unit rolls off.

14. (New) The device in accordance with claim 1, wherein at two end areas located in a guiding direction the carriage (3, 4) has strippers (2.2) at least in an area of guide tracks (2.31, 2.32), and sealing a space between the guide rails (2) and the carriages (3, 4) are sealing elements on the carriages (3, 4).

15. (New) The device in accordance with claim 1, wherein rail guides (1.1) for fastening the guide rails (2) are cut into the base frame (1).

16. (New) The device in accordance with claim 1, wherein the guide rails (2) are connected with the base frame (1) from a direction of the side of the base frame (1).

17. (New) The device in accordance with claim 1, wherein the base frame (1) has a table (1.3) and two of the guide rails (2) are attached in a vertical orientation to a vertical section extending from below to above the table (1.3), and a gate (1.2) is formed above the table top in a vertical section between the guide rails (2), so that access paths (12) to a treatment location of the tool are provided from four horizontal directions.

18. (New) The device in accordance with claim 17, wherein an upper carriage (3) is arranged above the table top, and a lower carriage (4) is arranged below the table top.

19. (New) The device in accordance with claim 1, wherein a passage (9.3) for an ejector (17) is formed in the at least one angle compensation element (9.4) and at least one lateral compensation element (9.1, 9.5).

20. (New) The device in accordance with claim 1, wherein a measuring pickup of a measuring system (5, 6) is arranged between two guide rails (2) in the area of the respective carriage (3, 4) for adjusting a carriage position.